

# GardenNOTES

 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2001

*A Season for Inspiration and New Ideas*

## TOP EUROPEAN GARDENING EXPERTS VISIT NHS

THE VISIONARY EDITOR of an award-winning international gardening magazine. An innovative plantswoman whose fresh landscape designs are attracting attention on both sides of the Atlantic.

*Wouldn't you love to hear  
these two women in person?*


You can, thanks to the planning and foresight of the NHS education committee, which has invited two of Europe's horticultural luminaries to Seattle for the fall lecture series.



This is the first time Northwest gardeners will meet and hear from Rosie Atkins, editor-in-chief of *Gardens Illustrated*, and the German nurserywoman and garden designer Anja Maubach, of Ahrends

Nursery. Please join NHS for

two informative presentations, filled with lots of visual inspiration, as Rosie and Anja both are expected to share slides of their projects during their lectures. For a bit of background on these talented

women, and a preview of what you'll hear at their lectures, turn to pages 2 and 3. 

### FALL LECTURES

Wednesday, October 10,  
7 P.M. reception;  
7:30 P.M. lecture

**"Building the Award-winning  
2000 Chelsea Flower Show  
Exhibit"**

**ROSIE ATKINS,  
*Gardens Illustrated***

**Fee: \$5 members; \$10 non-members**

Wednesday, November 14,

7 P.M. reception;  
7:30 P.M. lecture

**"The Latest Perennial Planting  
Trends from Germany"**

**ANJA MAUBACH,  
Ahrends Nursery**

**Fee: \$5 members; \$10 non-members**

# THE POETRY OF GARDENS

BY DEBRA PRINZING

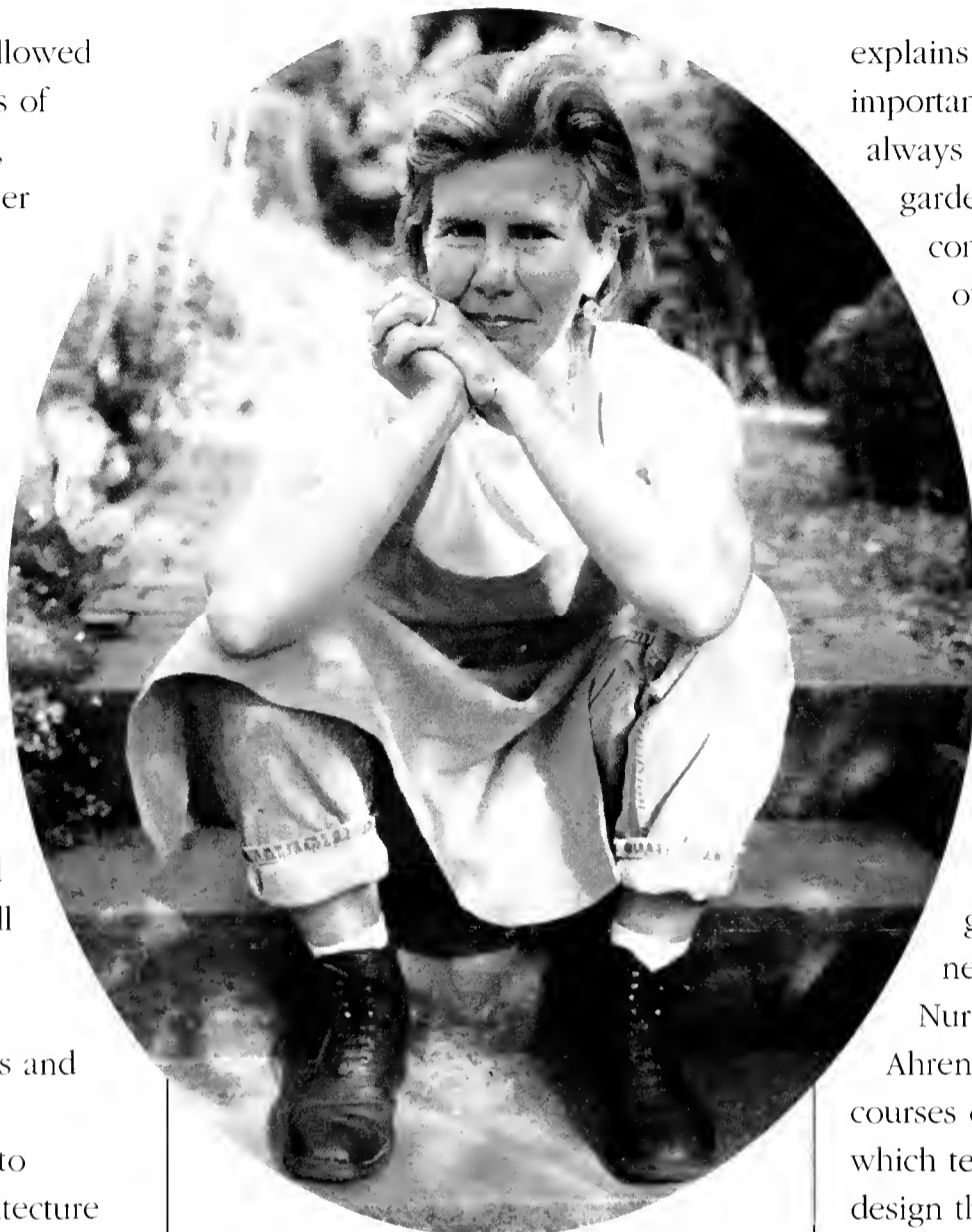
AS A CHILD, ANJA MAUBACH followed her mother around the grounds of Ahrends Nursery in Westphalia, northwest Germany. She and her sister played here and were looked after by staff gardeners, so it's no surprise that horticulture and a love of plants have worked their way into her system.

After completing her schooling, Anja trained to be a perennial gardener, "but my ambition always was to become a landscape architect," she says. Working in Norfolk, England, at Blooms of Bressingham helped to broaden her perspective: "All of a sudden, I saw the beauty and the art in combining perennials and creating gardens and spaces," Anja recalls.

This newfound passion led to university-level landscape architecture studies in Munich, where Anja met Chet Volski, a guest professor from California. "With him, I learned so much on creating spaces—thinking of the needs of a space, etc. He introduced me to the work of Christopher Alexander, author of *The Pattern Language*. This became to me the most inspiring book."

Volski also encouraged Anja's thesis topic on the work of Gertrude Jekyll and women in gardening. "She has been my gardening inspiration ever since," Anja says.

Since 1996, Anja has been running Ahrends Nursery, where her energy and ideas have helped reshape the 100-year-old family business. She has integrated



garden design with great garden plants—using the nursery grounds as a design laboratory for creating new display borders. With names like "September" and "Anja's New Border," the plantings offer nursery customers a new way to see the plants in a natural setting.


She has just completed a book, *Gardennotes*, which one hopes will soon be translated into English! Due out in October, the notebook-style format is designed to invite the reader to add his or her own sketches and notes to Anja's text. "This reflects my idea of gardening, to be full of new impressions and ideas and therefore I like to see a garden never finished," Anja

explains. "The gardening path is more important, and I think it is important to always find freedom out there in the garden, to be creative and learn to communicate with ourselves and others."

Anja can't say whether wonderful plants or good design take precedence in her own work: "It always depends . . . mostly, I learn to follow my intuition. But all plants get me excited; I rather meditate and look around the nursery, getting inspired by the plants themselves."

Her personal vision has greatly influenced one of the newest programs at Ahrends Nursery, the School of Gardening. Ahrends offers two- and three-day courses called "The Poetry of Gardens," which teach students how to create and design their own residential spaces.

Anja says the school offers a good framework for looking at the needs, order and ideas of one's garden. "Basically, I am pushing doors open, because I believe we all have the information in ourselves. It is just a matter of getting there, stripping down some corsets, so to say, and this is why I need two days for the course—with the aim of finding the garden's concept."

What's Anja's own garden like? "Gardening is part of my everyday life. Today, I would prefer my garden to be much smaller—a small adventure—an experimental garden with vegetables, herbs and perennials." 

# CUTTING EDGE GARDEN DESIGN

AFTER COMPLETING A DEGREE in Art and Design, Rosie Atkins changed direction and joined the staff at the *London Sunday Times* in 1968. She stayed for 15 years, working with luminaries such as Harold Evans and the world-famous "insight team." Her last seven years there were on the *Sunday Times* magazine, where she edited the gardening columns.

Having two young children by this time, Rosie decided to go freelance and concentrate on writing about gardening. The subject had awakened a childhood passion (she was brought up in a Georgian hotel, self-sufficient in flowers and vegetables, run by two rather remarkable gardeners). Rosie quickly established her freelance career with regular columns in *Today* newspaper and *Metropolitan Home* magazine, among others. In 1987, she and her architect husband took their two children out of school for a year and traveled the world discovering gardens (with interesting buildings attached).

On the family's return to London, Rosie became involved in producing an up-market, international gardening magazine; in 1993, *Gardens Illustrated* was born. She was awarded Editor of the Year in 1996 by the British Society of Magazine Editors and the magazine has gone on to win a host of international awards. In the course of her work, Rosie has visited garden shows in New Zealand; Gothenburg and Stockholm, Holland; Belgium and France, in the quest for new plants and exciting garden designers. In 2000, *Gardens Illustrated* exhibited a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show (shown here). After three years planning and months of preparation in the garden, designed by Piet Oudolf and Arne Maynard, the design won the Best in Show and a coveted gold medal.

Rosie shared a bit of herself with Debra Prinzing/NHS in this email Q&A:

**NHS:** Britain, long the standard-bearer for gardens and all things garden-related, has responded to enthusiastically to *Gardens Illustrated*. To what do you attribute the increased passion for gardening in your home country?

**Rosie:** *I would love to say it's just about us caring for nature and gardening being an extension of that, but in truth, I think we have had a spate of very popular gardening programs on television*



*in the UK, which have excited the masses (this includes coverage of gardening shows which are very popular here). This is a double-edged sword, resulting in people dashing down to the do-it-yourself stores and covering their gardens with decking and paving—not very environmentally friendly. This sounds rather negative, I know, but many others (hopefully Gardens Illustrated readers), are really beginning to appreciate the finer points of garden design and plantsmanship. These people are insatiable plantabolics, thrilled by new gardening styles, who are looking to create more adventurous gardens that are in harmony with nature.*

**NHS:** What is the editorial mission of *Gardens Illustrated*?

**Rosie:** *We have always aimed to be the world's most authoritative, outward-looking gardening magazine—no easy task, but not a bad goal. We have always taken a very wide view of the subject and I hope we will always move with the times.*

**NHS:** What about your international following?

**Rosie:** *I know gardeners speak the same language all over the world. I have always felt exploring what can be learned from others as being one of the magazine's greatest strengths. We sell in over 70 countries abroad and that is one of my proudest boasts.*


**NHS:** What influences you, personally?

**Rosie:** *Curiosity!*

**NHS:** Could you comment on any themes, trends and even "fads" that are top-of-mind around the table at recent *Gardens Illustrated* editors' meetings?

**Rosie:** *We cannot deny our British roots, but essentially, I am a journalist rather than a horticultural expert; and I feel that it's my job to inform and stimulate our readers wherever they are. The root of good journalism is always in good, clear, factually correct text, which entertains and excites the readers. As for trends, I am a bit wary of them, but basically, we try and reflect what's coming rather than what is "in"—we have a very discerning readership who don't want to follow fashion, they want to make it.*

**NHS:** What's next for Rosie Atkins?

**Rosie:** *We have plans to create a book using the most popular section of the magazine, the Plant Profiles. We might also be getting involved in another Chelsea, but I won't know anything for a month or two. I'm a sucker for punishment you might say!* 

# NHS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

PHOTOS AND STORY BY DAWN CHAPLIN

*Grant & Scholarship Committee chair*

*THE NHS GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP Committee is pleased to announce that for 2001, the Northwest Horticultural Society has awarded grants of \$2,500 each to five students, for total scholarship support of \$12,500. This money was provided through the NHS Horticultural Fund, an endowment that funds the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship in Horticulture. These awards are given to support the research and education of a deserving student(s) with an environmental horticultural goal. The money is granted as financial assistance for a specific research project. At this time, applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Washington, through the CUH, the College of Forestry Resources or the Department of Landscape Architecture.*

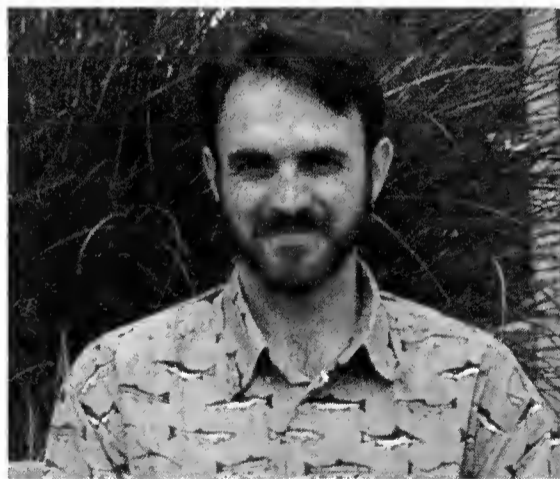
*As many of our members are unaware that this scholarship is given on a yearly basis, we wanted to introduce this year's recipients and their research projects.*



**CAROLYN ALFANO** is originally from Australia where she studied classical ballet and worked in the dance field until 1996. She started her environmental sciences studies at the University of New

South Wales. In June 2000, she obtained a B.S. (Magna Cum Laude) in Wildland Resources (now called Sustainable Resource Sciences) from the UW Department of Forestry.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Carolyn is interested in researching invasive species. She plans to investigate if the ability of a plant to self-sow in the garden is a good predictor of invasiveness in natural areas. Her research involves planting the seeds of 12 different annual, perennial and biennial garden plants in the Urban Bay Natural Area. Throughout the year, she will observe how well the plants reproduce to assess their self-sowing potential. Carolyn also plans to survey gardeners in the Seattle area to gather additional information.



**DEAN DOUGHERTY** has a strong background in computer science, describing himself as a "recovering computer professional." Over the past five years, he has been actively involved as a volunteer with The Nature Conservancy of Washington. For three years, he served as the organization's volunteer stewardship coordinator,

where he organized workdays for removing invasive plants, as well as monitored rare plants and native plantings. Most recently, Dean interned with the San Juan Preservation Trust, where he combined his plant identification and computer skills to create and implement a computerized species checklist for easements and preserves.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Dean is interested in invasion biology. He wants to determine the most effective ways to remove invasive plants and reestablish more appropriate vegetation in their place. Dean claims he has removed a lot of Scotch broom over the years, therefore it is not surprising that his research will focus on determining the most effective control methods and timing for Scotch broom removal. He has already started the removal process at Discovery Park and Guemes Island. Data will be gathered throughout the growing season and will include counting the number of seedlings that return following various plant removal methods.



**JEAN GAUTHIER** is an Enumclaw native who earned most of her childhood

allowance money weeding her mother's enormous garden. She obtained a biology degree from Eastern Washington University, where she focused her studies on botany and native plants. Jean is a Master Gardener, a docent at the Bellevue Botanic Garden and a volunteer in the Washington Park Arboretum's 'Index Seminum' (seed archives). She has a special interest in public horticulture and has just completed an extensive propagation internship at the renowned Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Jean plans to work with Dr. John Wott at the WPA to conduct historical research and evaluate the Arboretum's camellia collection. She'll not only document the collection, but also look at which hybrid cultivars are more resistant to disease. As part of this effort, Jean will make recommendations on how the Arboretum can expand its camellia collection.



**TARA GOLDSMITH** has an undergraduate degree in biology and a broad background that includes travel, teaching and research. As an

undergraduate, she worked in ecological research in Sweden. For two years, she taught science and math in the South Pacific for the Peace Corps.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Tara is interested in studying endangered plant species. In conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, Tara will be conducting a field study to look at the reproductive biology of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*, an endangered species known as the Wenatchee Mountain checker-mallow. This beautiful herbaceous perennial grows up to five feet tall with clusters of pink flowers. It is a hibiscus relative that grows in wet meadows, native to Chelan County in Central Washington. Tara is interested in the interaction of plants and insects and will be collecting data on the seed set and other factors to determine what may be contributing to the rarity of this threatened species.




**RAY LARSON** is well known to many of us at NHS as the assistant facilities manager at CUH. He is the "behind the scenes" person who keeps many activities and events at CUH running smoothly. Over the past six years at CUH, Ray has developed his interest in

horticulture, learning to appreciate how important well-managed horticultural resources are for education and appreciation of the environment, as well as the role of plants in making urban areas better places to work and live. Ray holds history and economics degrees from Ripon College in Wisconsin, where he minored in fine art.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Ray has a special interest in the role of native plants in gardens and in environmental restoration efforts. He will be combining his background in history with horticulture by studying and surveying the native flora of the Seattle area prior to modern settlement. To conduct his surveys, Ray will be looking at primary sources such as historical surveys done prior to 1850, herbarium specimens, and this region's few remaining relatively undisturbed plant communities. His goal is to develop a more complete list of plant species and plant communities that historically existed so that this information can be used for restoration projects, habitat creation, park development and for native display gardens.

*NHS board member Dawn Chaplin is the owner of DLC Garden Design.*

*Editor's note: NHS will invite these scholars to share excerpts of their research at a spring 2002 lecture. Look for details in the next issue of Garden Notes.* 

# WOMEN IN HORTICULTURE: CHANGE IS GOOD

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood . . . and I—I took the one less traveled by . . . ”*

BY REGINA GRUBB

IN 1984 A SMALL GROUP of women embarked on a mission. A mission to assist, inform, educate and band together women who chose to work in a primarily male dominated profession. This small, yet strong group traveled this “road” together as the group slowly developed into the fantastic resource it is today.

The Association for Women in Landscaping (AWL), as the group was initially called, has gone through many phases of growth. Most recently this growth developed from the fact that many of our members were not just landscapers and gardeners but also nursery professionals, landscape designers, interior plant specialists, horticultural therapists, educators, and arborists. Therefore, in 1999, our name was changed to The Association for Women in Horticulture (AWH) to reflect this diversity. [Since we are “for” women and not “of” women, our membership is not exclusionary!]

The purpose of AWH is to promote the professional development and advancement of women in the horticultural industry. AWH supports this purpose by providing opportunities for business development, professional advancement, continuing education and personal enrichment.

AWH offers opportunities for business networking through monthly meetings and special events. Our general membership meetings are held at the Center for Urban Horticulture the fourth Tuesday of the month (except Nov., Dec., and May-Aug) from 6:30-8:30 p.m. They are open to non-members for a nominal \$5.00 fee, which includes refreshments and a speaker. Special events include our annual “Women in Horticulture”

conference, and participation at various horticultural events in the Northwest, including plant sales, festivals and the NW Flower & Garden Show.

Our members also benefit from the “AWH Directory”, a membership listing cross-referenced by occupational specialty and location, The Leaf (our bimonthly newsletter), scholarships, and a referral service. The newsletter is informative, practical and educational highlighting regional issues and opportunities. Our two scholarship awards are given each year to full- or part-time landscape and horticultural students. The Jobline referral service continues as dual resource linking clients and employers with qualified AWH member professionals.

Our annual dues have recently been restructured to involve a wider audience in our mission. We now offer six levels of member support. A lowered rate for our Student Members (\$15). A new Cyber Member level, for those interested in receiving our publications via electronic mail (\$15). A new Associate Member level (\$25). Our current Professional Member level with expanded directory listing and referral service benefits (\$55). Our current Corporate Member level, with expanded directory listing and referral service benefits as well as member discounts for up to 3 representatives at AWH activities (\$120). And finally, a new Sponsor Member level, with acknowledgment at all AWH sponsored events and in all AWH publications (\$250 or more).

Our 16th annual “Women in Horticulture Conference” will be held this year at the beautiful campus of Bastyr University, located between Kirkland and Bothell, on Saturday, November 3rd, 8:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The conference will focus on presenting your image—small business and personal marketing. Tracy Schneider of TLS Marketing will guide us through the marketing process—marketing plans, professional looking design, marketing ideas (including the unconventional), websites and more. Debra Prinzing, a veteran journalist and garden writer, will present “Read all about it”—a seminar on communicating with the media as a marketing vehicle. Pam Burton, Executive Director of Seattle Tilth will finish out the day as our keynote speaker. Event sponsors and vendors are being accepted. Registration forms will be mailed in September. Conference fees are: Student members—\$25 (\$35 for non-member students), Member—\$40, Non-member—\$60, which includes lunch and refreshments. Our annual silent auction to benefit our scholarship fund will run concurrently with the conference. Mark your calendars for another great Women In Horticulture Conference!

If you have any questions about AWH, membership, the conference or are seeking a qualified referral for assistance with a landscape, garden or other horticultural issue contact our Infoline at 206/781-7741 or visit our website at [www.awhort.org](http://www.awhort.org). We look forward to your participation in this vital, Northwest organization.

*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.”* ROBERT FROST

*Regina Grubb is a landscape designer and horticulture instructor. She currently serves as president of AWH. She can be reached at 206/781-7741 or by email at [rkgdesign@hotmail.com](mailto:rkgdesign@hotmail.com).*

## SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

# “AN EDEN OF ONE’S OWN: INNOVATIVE DESIGN FOR RESIDENTIAL GARDENS”

THE NHS SUMMER SYMPOSIUM welcomed five remarkable speakers who shared their time-tested ideas and experience on structuring the garden, what to plant and how to incorporate art and accents to create dynamic landscapes. The July 21st event held at the Museum of History & Industry featured garden designers Dan Pearson (from England) and Jeff Mendoza (from New York), Bainbridge Island-based artistic collaborators George Little and David Lewis, and Seattle author Valerie Easton.

As a special treat, NHS member **Carl Elliott** of **Northwest Perennials** in Mount Vernon joined the lineup to share his fresh perspective on plants—and to offer Symposium attendees a chance to consult with him one-on-one at the plant boutique.

Symposium chair **Hans Mandt** not only made sure each aspect of the day went without a hitch, he also ran a busy and well-stocked NHS book table. A highlight for many participants was the chance to purchase recent books written by Symposium speakers and have them signed by the authors.

**Dan Pearson**, who recently wrote *The Garden—a Year at Home Farm*, spoke on “Nature as the Template,” setting the scene by sharing images from a diverse landscape of international gardens (the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Belgium and Japan). He highlighted much of his own work, including private gardens in London, a public garden in Birmingham, England, a new project in Tokyo, and sketches and plantings from the garden at his own Home Farm.



PHOTO BY RICHEL STEFFEN

**Garden Tour:** The day following this symposium, NHS loaded two buses of garden enthusiasts to tour an array of exceptional Seattle gardens that illustrated great urban landscape design ideas.

**David Lewis** and **George Little’s** talk on “Adding Art, Water and Drama to a Small, Intimate Garden,” showcased each incredible detail of the Little & Lewis studio garden. The designers showed their talent at integrating artwork and plants in both their garden and that of others. It’s no surprise that their slides exploded off the screen, showing tropicals, exotics, water, color and form at their best.

**Val Easton’s** “Creatures, Chaos and Design,” shared how to inject (with little time and less training) a few good design ideas into a small, organic, ornamental garden. Val walked us through her own garden’s evolution, year-by-year; season-by-season. She highlighted universal concepts that many gardeners address: pathways and patios, ground covering, open spaces,

pots, layering in the landscape, and seasonal changes.

**Jeff Mendoza’s** “Problems Solved in Urban and Country Gardens” served as a case study for how to address design challenges in landscapes large and small. He shared how he problem-solved design issues presented by his own clients, including incorporating an existing 5-foot wide mature *Taxus* hedge surrounding an heirloom rose garden into a new garden design for owners of a 10-acre estate in Bridgehampton, N.Y. On a smaller scale, Jeff illustrated how he created a garden on a 900-square-foot terrace that effectively screened four large A/C units, provided privacy from neighboring apartment buildings, created shade, provided storage space and baffled sound. 🌿

# NHS CALENDAR

**DATE, DAY & TIME**

**EVENT NAME**

**FEATURED SPEAKER**

**TYPE OF EVENT**

September 21 (Fri)  
7:30 p.m.

The Gardeners' Palette

Andrew Lawson,  
Garden Photographer

Slides & Lecture

September 24 (Mon)  
7 p.m.

Celebrate Autumn  
by Bringing it  
Indoors

Richard Hartlage  
Director, The Elisabeth C.  
Miller Botanical Garden

Demonstration &  
Lecture

October 10 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Building the Award-  
winning 2000  
Chelsea Exhibit

Rosie Atkins, Editor-in-Chief  
*Gardens Illustrated*

Slides & Lecture

November 14 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

The Latest Perennial  
Planting Trends  
from Germany

Anja Maubach, nursery owner  
Ahrends Nursery, Germany

Slides & Lecture

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January 9 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Confessions of a  
Plant Addict

Kelly Dodson, plantsman  
Reflective Gardens

Slides & Lecture

February 20 (Wed)

To be announced

March 13 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

My Garden and How  
I Do It

Thomas Hobbs, nursery  
owner and author of  
*Shocking Beauty*

Slides & Lecture

April 10 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Every Inch a Garden:  
Gardening in Small  
Spaces

Lucy Hardiman, garden designer

Slides & Lecture

May 8 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Deciduous Divas:  
Spectacular Small  
Shrubs and Trees

Roger Gossler, co-owner of  
renowned Gossler Farms  
Nursery in Eugene

Slides & Lecture

June 12 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Integrating Herbs  
into the Garden

Suzanne Edney, owner  
Custom Landscape Design  
Center, Apex, North Carolina

Slides & Lecture

September 11 (Wed)

To be announced

October 9 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

Celebrating the  
American Landscape  
in your Garden

Claire Sawyers, director  
Scott Arboretum,  
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Slides & Lecture

November 13 (Wed)  
7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 Begin

He Who Dies With the  
Most Cool Plants Wins

Richie Steffen, Coordinator of  
Horticulture, Elisabeth C. Miller  
Botanical Garden

Slides & Lecture



# EVENTS 2001/2002

| DESCRIPTION   | COST:<br>MEMBER /<br>NON | LOCATION  |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Sponsored with the Center for Urban Horticulture, Andrew's lecture will focus on color effects in the garden. Call CUH at (206) 685-8033 to register.   | \$15/\$20<br>Limit: 200  | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Sponsored with the Center for Urban Horticulture, David will demonstrate how to create beautiful arrangements with foliage and flowers from the garden. Call CUH at (206) 685-8033 to register. | \$15/\$20<br>Limit: 200  | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Dee Atkins will illustrate how the award-winning Chelsea Flower Show display garden was designed, created and built.  | \$5/\$10                 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Fourth-generation nursery owner and internationally renowned designer Anja Maubach will talk about planting strategies for the new millennium.  | \$5/\$10                 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |

## E V I E W

|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
| John will discuss his book on creating effective Gardens in Poulsbo, Kelly grows plants from wild-collected seed gathered by plant hunters around the globe. Catch his enthusiasm for amazing plants. | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Thomas Hobbs will share the inspirations and design process that created his much-published and acclaimed personal garden in Vancouver, B.C.  | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Land-based garden designer Lucy Hardiman will inspire us with ideas and methods of making the most of an urban-sized landscape.   | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| John will introduce his beloved "deciduous divas" to both beginning and sophisticated gardens alike. Plants in which trees and shrubs have sensational flowers, or fall color for the garden.         | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Johnne designs residential gardens for do-it-yourselfers. Learn how she integrates herbs into an overall landscape design, and enjoy new ideas for combining herbs with other plants.                 | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| John will share the classic American landscape prototypes with ideas for translating those into a residential scale garden design.  | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |
| Isn't a more enthusiastic and passionate plant-lover around than John Steffen. You won't leave his talk feeling ambivalent about John's long list of favorite and fantastic plants.                   | \$5/\$10 | NHS Hall<br>Center for Urban Horticulture<br>3501 NE 41st |

# SEATTLE YOUTH GARDEN WORKS: GROWING HOPE

BY NANCY NEAL

SEATTLE YOUTH GARDEN WORKS was created in 1995 primarily through the vision and hard work of one determined woman, Margaret Hauptman. From the time of the first horticulture project designed by Margaret, a band of volunteers and a few teens living on the street in the University District, the program has grown like blackberry bushes in the Pacific Northwest. It has expanded from a handful of hopeful people into a fully operational program for at-risk and low-income teens in the U-District and in South Park. The idea of linking troubled or needy youth with an educational, employment program based on principles of organic gardening might seem like a long shot to the general public. However, on closer consideration there is a lot of wisdom behind the idea—almost of an archetypal nature.

When, in April, I learned that Margaret was leaving as the Garden Works Program Director, I pondered the few words describing the job. I tend to think in metaphors and I immediately sensed the intrinsic potential of the position described. Around the same time that Garden Works was conceived, I had founded a non-profit based on the health needs of children who I had grown to know while living in the Chernobyl region of the former Soviet Union. The environmental impact of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Accident had by that time been recorded around the world but very little was known about it outside of the area most immediately affected. It seemed to me that bringing children to the Pacific Northwest for a

chance to have a summer respite from constant exposure to radiation would provide them with obvious positive impacts, as well as create a platform for discussion and education for our American public.

Margaret and I both recognize that an idea like the one that brought Seattle Youth Garden Works into being is not really a personal idea as much as it is a "latent potentiality" waiting for the right circumstances. Margaret felt that it was the right time for her to return to academic studies. I decided to take up the challenge of carrying the dream and the awesome potential of the program into the future. It is my hope that NHS members might catch a little of the magic that lies in the well-tended garden that Margaret and the many volunteers, youth and supporters have created in the past six years.


There is still so much more that can be done—so very much more. We have received wonderful recognition from the public and from funding sources. As the program has grown, however, our need for continued volunteer support, qualified and excited board members, interested teachers and educational partners and, of course, money have also grown. It is as natural as rain in Seattle. We were thrilled to be selected this year as one of the new organizations in Seattle to receive the support of the Social Venture Partners, an organization started by a few alumni from Microsoft and other technology firms to encourage social entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

I think the heart of Seattle Youth Garden Works is best expressed by



stories from the youth themselves. After all, to change the way that humanity is heading requires that each of us make personal daily changes. As gardeners, we know the value of the one tiny seed, of the rain and the sun, of the time element when very little can be seen before the first, tiny bit of green breaks through the soil. Our human souls are so very much the same. This is a part of the beautiful metaphor that makes Seattle Youth Garden Works such a potent place for young people to find sources of their own inner strength and hope.

I recently wrote *The Butterfly Effect*, about the Chernobyl Children's NW project. In essence, this title illustrates the concept that the beating of a butterfly's wings in Japan can eventually culminate into a huge tropical storm on the other side of the world. Similarly, the dreams and work that are being realized through our efforts cannot be measured in actual results until sometime in the future, if ever. The point is to do something with the best possible intention and let nature worry about the rest.

Seattle Youth Garden Works in the U-District can be reached at 206-525-1213 ext. 3131 or at [upstart@balcyon.com](mailto:upstart@balcyon.com). 

*Nancy Neal, M.A., is the new executive director of Seattle Youth Garden Works, a program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle.*

# NATIVE PLANT STEWARDSHIP

BY PEG PEARSON

THE WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY will train its 7th class of stewards this fall. Far from persons who pour our wine or make our cruises comfy, these stewards put WNPS goals to “appreciate, conserve and study” our native flora into action.

For 25 years, the WNPS has linked scientists, teachers and enthusiasts in an organization that embodies what John Muir once observed: “Everything is connected.” Plants would thrive dandily without humans, but humankind *needs* plants to survive. So, how does a plant species disappear? Was its home or its pollinator’s home grazed, paved, sprayed, logged or drained away? Through 100 hours of free training, WNPS stewards learn that to protect a plant first means to conserve its ecosystem.

Botanically, “native” refers to plants existing before the Denny party settled at Alki 150 years ago. In the three to four generations since, nearly 90 percent of our Evergreen state’s old growth timber has been harvested. Of our estimated 2,330 vascular plant species, 227 are listed as sensitive, threatened, endangered or extirpated.

This year, state residents are experiencing first hand the ramifications of one species’ decline. We have taken our water for granted, even cursed the long dark winters. Yet now, anything reliant on water is affected. While 65 percent of the USA depends on coal, the PWN produces 85 percent of its energy from hydroelectric power. We’ve been asked or required to let lawns go brown so the reduced water supply may be divvied up between agricultural, industrial, energy, safety and salmon habitat priorities. Should we each succeed in using



*Volunteers assist with the restoration of Des Moines Creek, a King Co. Native Plant Steward project.*

10 percent less water, consumption accounts for only part of the problem.

Back to “Everything is connected.” True, the state’s water supply is low because of high demand atop a 40 percent snow pack shortfall. More significantly, clear cuts and concrete have altered essential functions of our watersheds: their ability to absorb, percolate slowly and hold groundwater over time. Our economic successes have been at the expense of our natural resources. Treating our watersheds as valued resources and implementing long-range plans would also help sustain biological diversity and environmental quality for the future.

To these ends, WNPS has trained 143 volunteers in King and Snohomish Counties since 1996, to focus on restoration as well as conservation of watersheds and urban forests. In efforts to save our native flora and their disappearing ecosystems, WNPS stewards have donated over 19,000 hours on more than 200 projects. From bushwhacking Scotch Broom, ivy, holly and blackberry to salvaging natives for revegetating riparian streams, from creating curricula and demo gardens to

monitoring scant members of a rare plant and offering native plants at an annual spring sale, stewards have helped to promote and protect native resources in all corners of the state.

While becoming a WNPS steward has been the cat’s meow for me, not everyone has 200 hours to volunteer. Fortunately, life is intricately intertwined. Caring for the watershed can begin with simple changes in the home garden. We’ve either heard or read the checklists on how to save water at home, including our landscapes. Using less water is the easy part. Rebuilding our backyards and spaces held in common into naturally functioning ecosystems takes more work and fewer chemicals. Mostly, though, it requires making informed choices about what we plant and how we care for our gardens. WNPS and many others have information to share on watershed-friendly gardening.

I’ve learned that being personally responsible and living in balance with nature is what good stewardship means, whether we have a drought or not. I hope to see you at a wildflower walk or restoration project soon. There’s always the next WNPS training to consider. Stewardship is rewarding and oodles of fun!

To learn more about the Washington Native Plant Society and its stewardship program, call (206) 527-3210 or visit [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org).

*Peg Pearson is a Master Gardener, Land-Water Steward, WNPS Steward and “very grateful” NHS member who first discovered gardening through NHS, when in 1995, her sewer broke, destroying a 70-year-old traditional landscape.*

# REMEDIES: THE VINEGAR DEBATE

*Editor's note: There have been several recent media accounts about a new vinegar-based "Blackberry & Brush Block" herbicide. James Nielsen of Brush-Greenergy in Oregon developed the product; in July 2001, it received a 25(b) exemption label from EPA Region 10 with the Agency's "fast tracking" of "natural products" for use as pesticides. After Ann Lovejoy wrote about this product in her garden school newsletter and subsequently in a Seattle Post-Intelligencer column ([http://seattle-i.nwsource.com/nwgardens/26284\\_lovejoy07.shtml](http://seattle-i.nwsource.com/nwgardens/26284_lovejoy07.shtml)), local Master Gardener clinics and area nurseries were inundated with requests and inquiries about vinegar's potential for suppressing blackberries, poison oak, tansy and other roadside weeds. Essentially, highly-concentrated vinegar lowers the soil pH to 3, a level at which weeds (or any plant) won't survive. Several researchers at WSU and OSU have joined the debate on the efficacy of Blackberry & Brush Block. You can learn more about the product by visiting the Website of distributor Professional Turf Center (Tigard, OR) at [www.proturfcenter.com](http://www.proturfcenter.com). Here are two perspectives for NHS members to consider:*

## **From Dr. Timothy Miller, Weed Scientist, WSU Mount Vernon:**

(Excerpted from the September WSU/King Co. Master Gardener newsletter)

Blackberry & Brush Block contains 5% citric acid as its "active ingredient." The other 95% of contents are listed as "inert ingredients: acetic acid, water." In other words, the inerts contain plain old vinegar, but the proportion of acetic acid is not detailed (common household vinegar contains about 5% acetic acid in water).

B&BB's material safety data sheet indicates that it also contains other inert components, namely carboxyl, gibberellic acid, acetic acid calcium carbonate/dry lactic acid (sour milk) . . . described as "mild skin irritants." The MSDS further cautions that ingesting the product may cause pain/irritation/burns, and warns of the potential for severe or permanent corneal (eye) injury.

I am as excited as anybody when a product comes along that purportedly kills such tough weed species as blackberry and horsetail. But I must admit to being more than a little skeptical that B&BB, or any other acetic acid-based herbicide, could offer such a thorough solution, especially after a single application. Dr. Stephen Young at UC Research & Extension Center in Hopland has tested several vinegar-based formulations for roadside weed control. His studies show that application of these products results in defoliation, but because established perennial weeds require repeated treatment, the acid products are not cost-effective when compared with treatments such as Roundup.

Clearly, research must be conducted on B&BB to determine whether the product is effective, and if so, how its efficacy compares to other herbicides. . . . (We) plan to conduct replicated efficacy tests with B&BB on blackberry in Mount Vernon and Corvallis during the coming months. Greenergy is graciously providing a supply of the product. In the end, we all hope to scientifically determine just how and where applications of vinegar can produce sweet results against problem weeds.

## **From Ann Lovejoy, Bainbridge Island-based garden writer:**

(Excerpted from the June edition of Ann Lovejoy's Garden School newsletter)

For years, taking out blackberries and horsetails meant lots of hard work and very slow results.

Now a new product from a company called Greenergy is changing all that. Blackberry & Brush Blocker is a product of the wine industry. Made from highly concentrated wine vinegar (about 1,000 times stronger than what you use on your salad), it alters soil pH in a hurry and the effects persist for up to a year.

Spray these concentrates on the roots of a big old blackberry or Scotch broom and within a day or so, you'll see the foliage begin to wilt. The B&BB takes the soil pH down to 3, a level at which plants simply can't survive. However, the soil biota (the living creatures in the top soil) simply goes dormant, waiting for things to get better.

Until you treat the soil with lime, nothing can grow in the area. I immediately tried it on my gravel paths and along the driveway. I learned that a really rainy day is not the best time to use this (though it worked fairly well anyway). On a dry, warm day, you can watch the weeds wither. Best of all, a single application lasts up to a year. No more weeds. Period. Pretty cool, hmm?

Blackberry removal is slower but oh, so thorough. It takes quite a while for a whole blackberry plant to die off completely; perhaps six months all told. . . . Practice a little patience and you'll have truly dead blackberry branches that aren't going anywhere ever again. Scotch broom also takes a while to die off, but cut branches won't sprout, so you can cut the shrubs before or after you spray the soil.

. . . When you can see that the deepest tap rooted weeds are totally dead (which can take some time with Canadian thistle or big dock weeds), add lime, water it in well and give the bed another few weeks or so for the soil to recover its normal biotic activity.

# “FROM THE GROUND UP—THE STORY OF A FIRST GARDEN,”

by Amy Stewart

ALGONQUIN BOOKS OF CHAPEL HILL 2001 ISBN # 1565122402, \$18.95

REVIEW BY DEBRA PRINZING

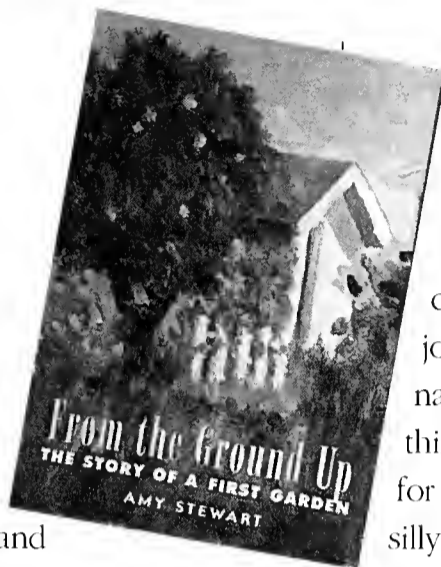
TEXAS NATIVE AMY STEWART, armed with an advanced degree in community and regional planning, relocated to Santa Cruz, Calif., and found herself suddenly interested in plants and soil. “I want a garden when we get to the coast,” she tells her husband, Scott, when the two are fresh out of University of Texas graduate school. “A house with a yard where I can plant something.”

*From the Ground Up* is Stewart’s chronicle of the seedlings and weeds, cats and compost, worms and watering . . . as she labors to turn the yard surrounding her tiny seaside cottage into a garden.

There’s really nothing new in this book—we’ve all endured the tribulations of garden-making, trial and error landscaping and experimental plant selections. But there’s something so endearing and charming about Stewart’s self-effacing writing voice. She truly wants the reader to experience the same emotional highs and lows, the essential passion of gardening, that she lives through. “A garden is a human creation. It has to be thought of first. In has to be

wished into being, planned for, like a wanted child,” she writes.

In the style of a seasonal chronicle, Stewart brings her readers along on forays to the local garden center, battles with oxalis and efforts at worm composting. Her series of essays starts with “First Garden,” and ends with “A letter to the next gardener at 118 Buena Vista.” Each essay—humorous, bittersweet or instructional, ends with a primer of sorts. Stewart’s storytelling skills are effective; that she concludes each chapter with pragmatic gardening advice makes this book useful. For example, after writing about her many helpful neighbors, Stewart summarizes tips in “the neighborly art of propagation.” Her chapter on Cats, which stars feline garden helpers *Gray* and *LeRoy*, ends with advice on growing “The Cat’s Garden,” with a cat-preferred list of plants.



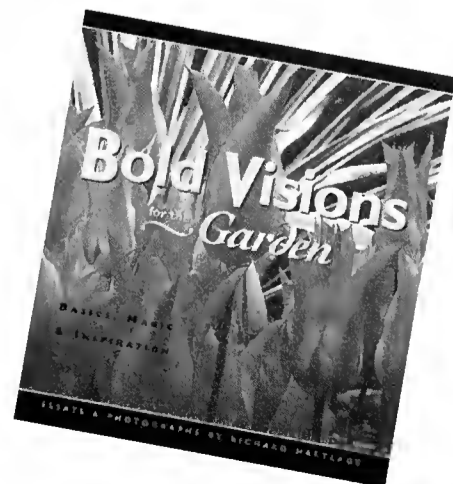
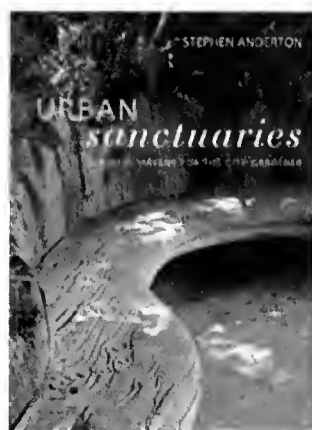
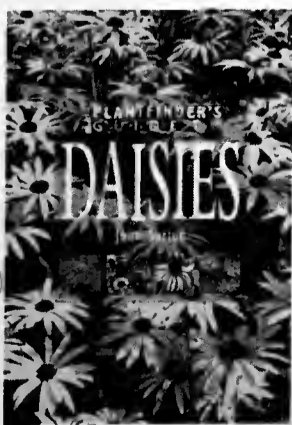
This is the kind of book I thoroughly enjoy reading at the end of a long day. I tuck the boys into bed, make a cup of tea and . . . finally collapse beneath the down comforter. Aaah. To read about the joys of perennials, soil, design and nature is a darn good way to wrap things up. Stewart’s writing was perfect for my mood: not too didactic; not too silly. Instead, *From the Ground Up* is purely one woman’s heartfelt journal about her own garden. One acquaintance told me she started tearing up when she read the final chapter in which Stewart writes a loving letter to the future tenants of her Santa Cruz rental home. I didn’t exactly weep, but I did feel a certain empathy with Stewart in reading her garden love-letter (we all mourn for those “plants we left behind,” don’t we?).

Amy Stewart writes a regular gardening column for *La Gazette*. She’s had articles published in a variety of Bay Area periodicals as well as nationally for *GreenPrints*, *American Horticulture*, and *Bird Watcher’s Digest*.

## NHS BOOK TABLE:

Look for these books and more at NHS fall events.

Remember, you benefit from great discounts when you buy garden books from NHS.



# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## Spring recap—Carrie Becker

STORY AND PHOTO

BY JEAN ZAPUTIL

ACCORDING TO CARRIE BECKER, there was a time, years ago, when “I never met a plant I didn’t like.” But times have changed. At the April NHS lecture, Carrie passed along to all of us a very satisfying few hours of knowledge that she’s gained during her years of planting, maintaining and designing gardens, especially perennial borders.



She categorized geraniums into “good” and “bad,” with *Geranium endressii* being bad, because every single seed seems to be viable and therefore invasive. She describes *Geranium* ‘Buxton’s Blue’ as so beautiful and well behaved that it doesn’t grow enough to suit her!

Carrie presented many helpful ideas for managing difficult plants. To recall just a few . . .

\*Cut *Euphorbia dulcis* ‘Chameleon’ in half during mid-summer to stop invasive seeding

\*Grow roses with one parent that’s a rugosa to reduce diseases and insects

\*Plant *Pulmonaria* ‘Roy Davidson’ under deciduous trees (spring sun / summer shade / no mildew)

\*Make *Helleborus niger* look really good by taking off the last year’s foliage after one inch of new growth has emerged and plant it in a carpet of ground cover to keep mud from splashing the plant

\*Grow *Aconitum lycoctonum* ssp. ‘Valparia’ as an easier alternative to delphiniums

\*Substitute *Thermopsis villosa* for lupines and get shades of yellow flowers.

Carrie also presented many of her favorite plant varieties: *Helianthus salicifolius* (that smells like chocolate and takes wet soil in winter); *Euphorbia schillingii* (the best 4-ft. high clump); *Aster cordifolius* ‘Little Carlow’ (that produces a lavender cloud of flowers with no staking) and the list went on from there: from tulips to peonies to daylilies.

It was an evening filled with what gardeners love most . . . plants, plants and more plants.

NHS member Jean Zaputil is an artist and owner of Jean Zaputil Garden Design.

## Richie’s Fall Notebook

BY RICHIE STEFFEN

THE FERNLEAF FULL MOON MAPLES, *Acer japonicum* ‘Aconitifolium,’ have had a blush of red since early August and are now developing a riot of fall color. They’re the first to signal the end of summer. Soon to follow are the fothergilla, enkianthus, and Japanese maples dressed in saturated reds, oranges, and yellows. Some of the best Japanese maples we have for fall color are *Acer japonicum* cultivars ‘Attaryi’ and ‘Vitifolium’ and the *Acer palmatum* cultivars ‘Chitoseyama,’ ‘Katsura,’ and the fire engine red ‘Osakazuki.’ Before the leaves drop we will try to remove any dead wood from the trees and large shrubs, as it is much easier to see what is dead and what is not now than in the winter. Any larger scale pruning projects we will save for the winter.

The summer blooming perennials have been cut back to create a fresh clean look for the fall bloomers. Many of the summer bloomers can be divided at this time. Much of the dividing will continue until late winter. The Pacific Coast hybrid irises are best divided in the fall soon after root growth starts (September to early October). Be careful if this is the first time dividing your plants; some cultivars can be quite finicky and resent the root disturbance. I would divide off a small portion or two, if these do well you can take off more the following year. Other candidates for fall dividing are the early bloomers, such as, *Brunnera*, *Corydalis* (blue flowered types), Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra*), Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), and the early primroses.

We’ve stuffed several large containers at the Miller Garden with spring bulbs. Over the layer of bulbs we have planted lavender and blue *Viola cornuta* selections and *V. cornuta* hybrids. These tough pansy-like flowers will provide color from late winter until the bulbs have finished flowering. We are in the second year of trailing species tulips and *Alliums* on the dry hillside, with the hope of discovering species that will return yearly and be reliable bloomers. If you are fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to have Lily of the Valley, *Convallaria majalis*, growing in your yard, now is a great time to dig a full clump and pot it up for forcing later in spring. I like to dig two or three clumps, wash off the soil, then layer the remaining roots and buds one on top of the other in a pot. It makes a much fuller display. Don’t forget to protect the potted bulbs.

NHS Board member Richie Steffen is the Coordinator of Horticulture at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

# NHS BULLETIN BOARD

## ***Membership Benefits***

Take the NHS membership challenge and invite one or more of your garden-loving friends or colleagues to join the region's premiere horticulture organization. When you join NHS, here's what you'll receive: (Annual dues: \$35)

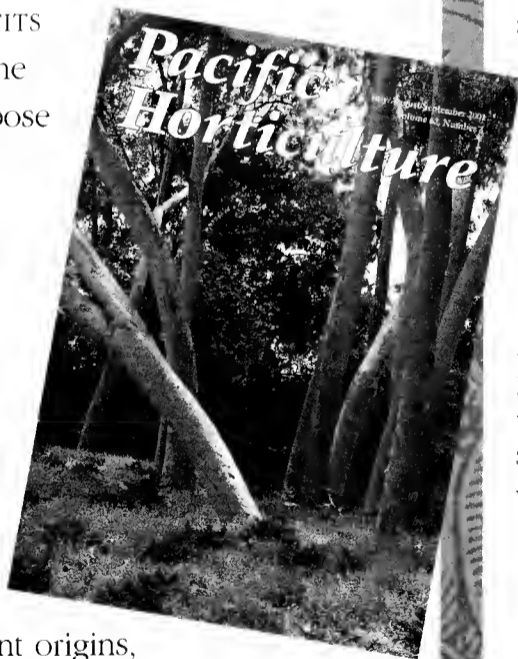
- \* **Four issues of "Garden Notes"**
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- \* **Invitation to the Ultimate Garden Auction and Party**
- \* **Discount on *Pacific Horticulture***
- \* **Exciting Volunteer Opportunities**

## ***Pacific Horticulture update:***

ONE OF THE BEST-LOVED BENEFITS of being a member of NHS is the discount you receive if you choose to subscribe to *Pacific Horticulture*, the only quarterly publication written by and for gardeners and plant-lovers in West Coast states.

*Pacific Horticulture* offers solid knowledge based on the experience of writers who are, first and foremost, gardeners. Whether your interest is in garden design, plant origins, new introductions, destinations or plant and garden history, you'll find this an invaluable resource for the garden library.

Because *Pacific Horticulture's* subscription rates are increasing, the NHS annual due level will reflect a slight increase from \$50 to \$55. That still gives NHS members a \$5 discount off the *Pacific Horticulture* subscription of \$25. This is a great deal, as the newsstand rate is \$37.50 for a year's worth of issues!



## ***Host a Speaker***

*"I think it's great fun to entertain our speakers; it gives the opportunity to have a chance to visit with them, get to know them . . . possibly even visit them when you go to far away places where they're from. You wouldn't ever want to live without doing this!"* ANN LEVASSEUR, NHS PAST PRESIDENT.

If you have the gift of hospitality and are interested in sharing an extra room with one of the NHS's invited speakers in 2002, let us know! All that's required is a willingness to provide a minimum of one night's guest accommodations and meals, transportation to CUH and goodwill as you represent NHS. To volunteer or for more details, contact Rebecca Stewart, the events and education coordinator at the Miller Garden. She can be reached at (206) 362-8612 or [rebeccas@millergarden.org](mailto:rebeccas@millergarden.org).

## ***The Miller Horticultural Library Needs You***

Merrill Hall, which housed the Miller Library, was largely destroyed when the Center for Urban Horticulture was firebombed on May 21, 2001. All of the books suffered smoke, soot or fire damage, or a combination of all three. Merrill Hall, except for the newer half of the library, has been torn down, and the remaining library gutted. Plans are underway to rebuild. This autumn, a much smaller interim library, including the Plant Answer Line Service, will open again to serve the public. We look forward to a grand re-opening of the Miller Horticultural Library when the new Merrill Hall is completed.

You can help in efforts to replace, rebind and restore damaged books and other materials, as well as to purchase furniture, shelving and equipment for the new library. To donate to the restoration of the library, checks should be made out to the UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON—MILLER LIBRARY FUND, and mailed to:

**Miller Horticultural Library**  
**Attn: Valerie Easton**  
**Center for Urban Horticulture,**  
**Box #354115, University of Washington,**  
**Seattle, Washington 98195**

Your gift will be matched in full up to \$1,000 by a grant from the Miller Charitable Foundation (all matching grant money will go to build endowment). For more details on the reopening of the interim library, or for questions, call the library at (206) 543-0415 or visit [www.millerlibrary.org](http://www.millerlibrary.org).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUMMER IS SLIDING TO A CLOSE and the night temperatures are getting a little cooler than we would all like. Our biggest event, the fall plant sale, is just behind us and we are still counting the money to see how much a success it was. Thanks to Theresa Malmanger, Laurie Coleman and Anita Dunn for chairing this event and the legions of volunteers it takes to make the two-day sale a success. While we bask on the successes of 2001, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hans Mandt for chairing the July Symposium, 'An Eden of One's Own,' The speakers were excellent and Carl Elliott brought great plants to sell. Everyone went home with new ideas and wonderful plants. The annual Miller Library auction raised more than \$43,000 under the leadership of Ann Johnson and Dan Zatz, with procurement of the items by Pat Reihl. The evening was fun with great food and wonderful items to bid on. I went home with more than one.

Dawn Chaplin headed up the Grants and Scholarship committee this year. The committee awarded 5 scholarships to students at the Center for Urban Horticulture and two additional grants: one to the Miller Library for \$8,500 and the other to the Chase Garden in Orting, WA, for \$1,500. Thanks could never be complete without acknowledging the countless volunteers that make these events run so smoothly.

The Education and Library committees are busy planning for 2002. If you would like to join an NHS committee please call Karin Kravitz and she will pass your name along to the appropriate committee chairperson. I will look forward to seeing you at the autumn lectures where Richie Steffen will have a few plants to sell from the Miller Garden.



RICHARD W. HARTLAGE,  
PRESIDENT

### GARDEN NOTES EDITOR

Debra Prinzing  
dkprinzing@aol.com

### DESIGNER

Constance Bollen,  
CB Graphics

### COMMITTEE

Richard A. Brown  
Valerie Easton  
Richard Hartlage  
Karin Kravitz

### ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ISSUE:

Dawn Chaplin  
Regina Grubb  
Richard Hartlage  
Karin Kravitz  
Nancy Neal  
Peg Pearson  
Richie Steffen  
Jean Zaputil

### PRINTER

Mike Klinke,  
Impression Printing



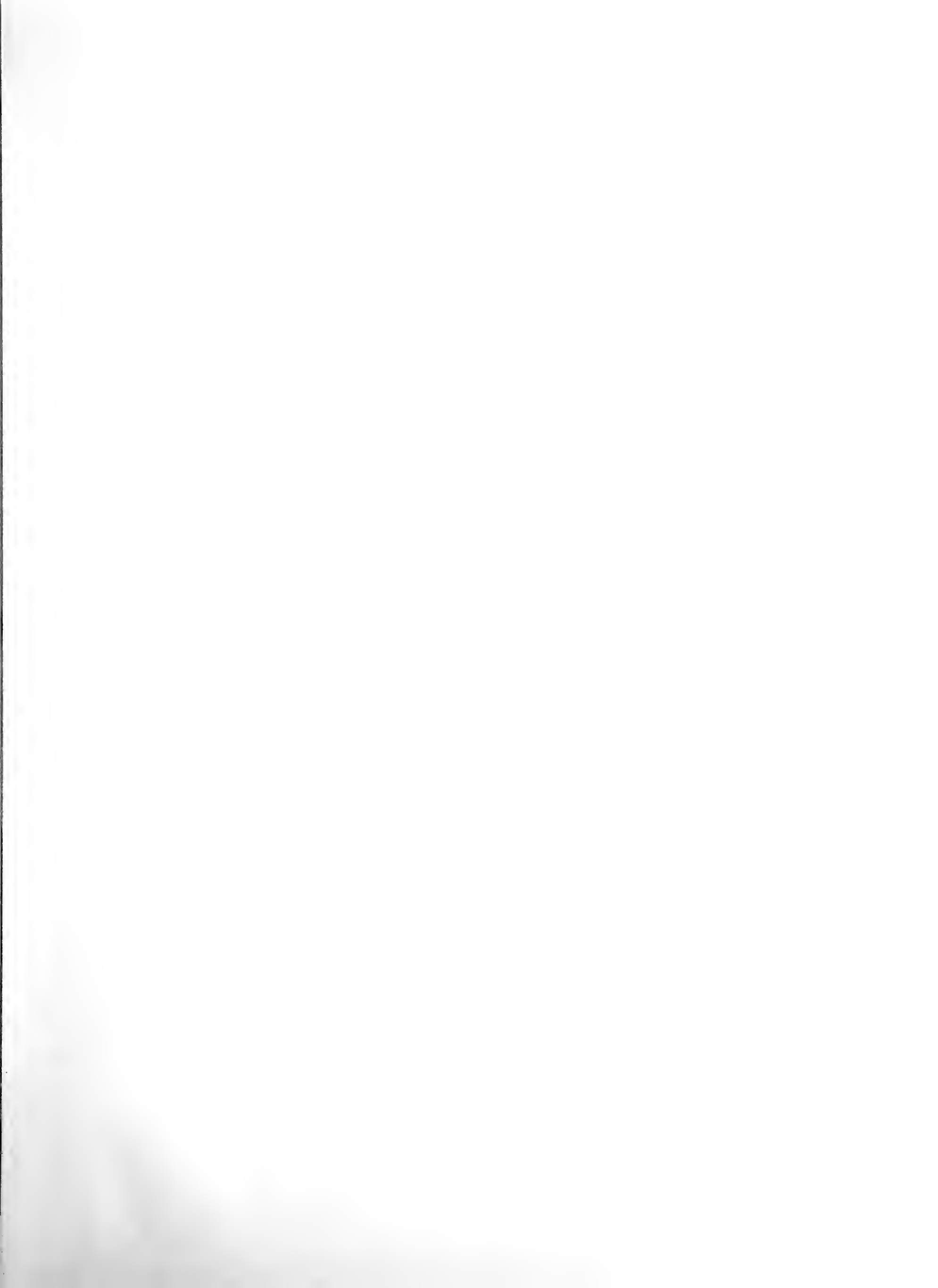
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